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RITUAL

—OF THE—

Uniformed Rank

KNIGHTS OF HONOR

-- OF THE WORLD. --



—ADOPTED BY—

THE SUPREME LODGE

AT NATCHEZ, MISS.

1896.

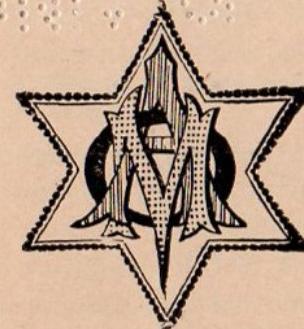
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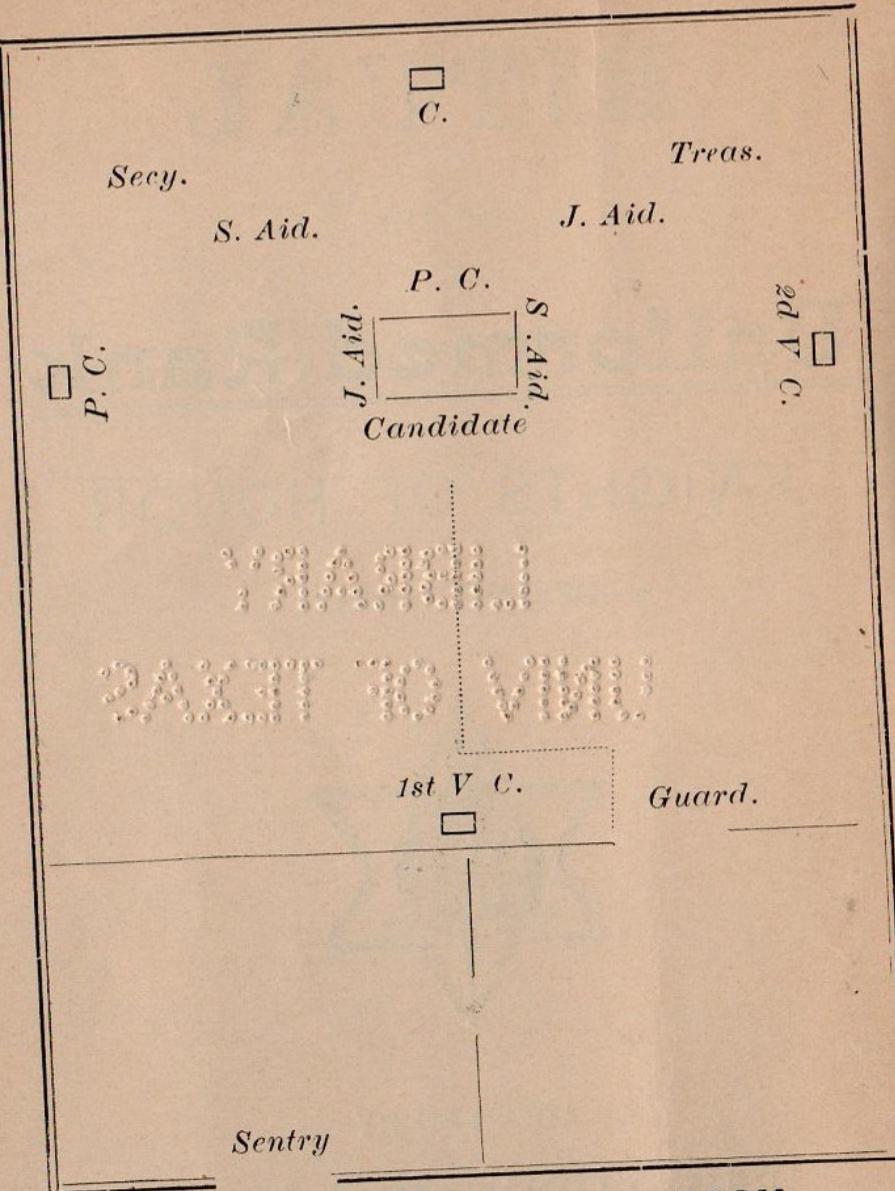


DIAGRAM OF COMMANDERY ROOM.

Showing position of officers, also position of officers and candidate around the altar at the time of taking obligation.
Dotted line shows path of members to and from altar in entering or retiring from Commandery while in session.
All movements during initiation and installation should be by right angles when possible.

COMMANDERY

—OF THE— UNIFORMED RANK Knights of Honor of the World.

OPENING

COMMANDER.—Guard, see that the Sentry is at his post, and that the approaches are duly guarded.

Guard sees that the Sentry is at his post and instructs him that the Commander is about to open the Commandery. He returns and from his post salutes the Commander.

GUARD.—Commander, the Sentry is at his post and the approaches are duly guarded.

COMMANDER.—Senior and Junior Aid, ascertain if all present are Knights of the Rank.

The Aids arise, draw swords, salute and communicate to the Commander in a whisper the countersign: then, passing down on their respective sides, receive from each Knight the countersign. Each Knight, as the Aids approach, rises and gives to him the countersign in a whisper. Meeting in front of the First Vice-Commander, the Aids face the Commander, advance to altar and salute the Commander.

SENIOR AID.—Commander, all present are Knights of the Rank.

Aids, marching at right angles, resume their stations. At this point the Commandery may be opened according to the form laid down on page 6, or the duties of officers may be rehearsed prior to opening as follows:

Commander.—First Vice-Commander, what are the qualifications requisite for membership in a Commandery?

First Vice-Commander.—To be and remain a Knight of Honor in good standing.

Commander.—How many constitute a quorum in a Commandery of the Uniformed Rank?

First Vice Commander.—Ten or more Knights in good standing in their Commandery.

Commander.—Who are the officers of a Commandery?

First Vice-Commander.—Commander Past Commander, First and Second Vice-Commanders, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior and Junior Aids, Guard and Sentry.

Commander.—Where is the post of the Sentry?

First Vice Commander.—At the outer portal.

Commander.—Guard, what are his duties?

Guard.—To guard the outer portal and permit none to enter except those in possession of the annual countersign.

Commander.—Your post?

Guard.—At the inner portal.

Commander.—Your duties?

Guard.—To see that the Sentry is at his post and to guard the inner portal, admitting none without the general countersign.

Commander.—The station of Junior Aid?

Guard.—To the left and in front of the Commander

Commander.—Junior Aid, your duties?

Junior Aid.—To receive and execute the orders of the commander and conduct candidates through the ceremonies of initiation.

Commander.—The station of the Senior Aid?

Junior Aid.—To the right and in front of the Commander.

Commander.—Senior Aid, your duties?

Senior Aid.—To see that the orders of the Commander are properly executed, and with the assistance of the Junior Aid conduct candidates through the ceremonies of initiation.

Commander.—The Treasurer's station?

Senior Aid.—On the left of the Commander.

Commander.—Treasurer, your duties?

Treasurer.—To receive and keep the funds of the Commandery; pay no money except upon warrants legally drawn, and render a true account whenever required.

Commander.—The Secretary's station?

Treasurer.—On the right of the Commander.

Commander.—Secretary, your duties?

Secretary.—To keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Commandery, conduct its correspondence, collect its revenues and pay them to the Treasurer

Commander.—The station of the Second Vice-Commander?

Secretary.—To the left of the Commander, opposite the altar.

OPENING.

Commander.—Second Vice Commander, your duties?

Second Vice-Commander.—To assist the Commander in preserving order, assist in initiation of candidates, and preside in the absence of the Commander and First Vice-Commander

Commander.—The station of First Vice Commander?

Second Vice-Commander. Opposite the Commander.

Commander.—First Vice-Commander, your duties?

First Vice-Commander—To assist the Commander in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence preside over the Commandery.

Commander.—The Past Commander's station?

First Vice-Commander Opposite the Second Vice Commander

Commander.—Past Commander your duties?

Past Commander.—To lead the devotional exercises of the Commandery, to assist in the initiation of candidates and to see that the work is properly done.

Commander.—The Commander's station?

Past Commander.—At the head of the Commandery.

Commander.—His duties?

Past Commander To preside over the Commandery and execute its laws firmly and impartially.

Commander.—May we all so discharge our duties as to reflect credit and honor upon our Noble Order.

OPENING.

Commander.—Senior and Junior Aids from the ranks.

Senior and Junior Aids advance two steps in front of their stations. Each commands the Knights on his respective side to fall in line in front of the Past and Second Vice-Commanders, facing inward. After dressing the ranks, the Senior Aid will take position on the left and the Junior Aid on the right of his respective line, when each will command: Draw Swords! The First Vice-Commander will advance in front of his station, the Second Vice-Commander and Treasurer on his right and the Guard and Secretary on his left, facing the Commander. The Past Commander will take a position at the altar, facing the Commander. The Commander then takes position between the Senior and Junior Aids, facing the altar. As soon as the Commander has taken his position he will draw sword, when the First Vice-Commander will command:

First Vice Commander.—Present Swords!

The Commander will acknowledge the salute and say:

Commander.—Carry, Swords! Return, Swords! Uncover! Past Commander, lead in prayer

At the command "uncover," each Knight will remove his cap with the left hand and place it on his right shoulder and bow his head.

Past Commander.—Almighty Father bless the deliberations in which we are about to engage. Let our first affection be to Thee, and then to those whom we have adopted as brothers and pledged ourselves by solemn vows to honor and cherish as true Knights. Let charity control our every actions and let us not forget this night to perform our whole duty towards the distressed in our band, and those helpless ones whom our departed brothers may have cast upon our bounty. And so may Thy blessing rest upon us all forevermore. Amen.

Commander.—Be covered!

Commander then returns sword and resumes his station.

Commander.—I now declare this Commandery open in due form. Guard, inform the Secretary. To your posts, march!

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Calling Roll of Officers.
2. Reading Record of the Last Meeting.
3. Reading Petitions for Membership and Referring the Same.
4. Reports of Investigating Committees.
5. Balloting for Candidates.
6. Conferring Degree.
7. Reading Communications, Orders, Bills, Etc.
8. Reports of Committees.
9. Unfinished Business.
10. New Business.
11. Good of the Commandery.
12. Closing Ceremony.

CLOSING.

Commander.—I am now about to close this Commandery. Guard, inform the Sentry.

Guard opens door, informs Sentry and returns, salutes and says:

Guard.—Commander, the Sentry has been notified.

Commander.—Aids, collect the property of the Commandery.

The Aids will collect the rituals and insignia and place them on the station of the Commander.

Commander.—Aids, form the ranks.

The ranks are formed about the altar in the same manner as at the opening, the officers occupying the same positions; following instructions down to and including the command;

Commander.—Past Commander, lead in prayer.

Past Commander repeats the Lord's prayer.

Commander.—Be covered!

Commander resumes his station and says:

Commander.—Knights our work for the evening is finished. In mingling with the outer world, do not forget to exemplify by your lives the lessons taught in the Commandery. We will meet again on the—day of——at——o'clock. Be punctual in your attendance. I now declare this Commandery closed. Break ranks, march!

INITIATION CEREMONIES.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

The beauty of an initiation depends in a great degree on the manner in which it is performed. Every instruction must be carried out in the minutest detail. No smoking should ever be allowed during the initiation, for in the darkness the lighted cigar would tend to distract the candidates attention from the scene before him. Perfect quiet must be preserved, and the Commander should always call attention to these requirements before the initiation begins. When the candidate reaches the hall he should be given a seat in the ante-room and left completely alone. Nothing should be said to him except what is absolutely necessary. No joking should be allowed before him or with him. A hush should come over all when he comes in, and everything from that time should be done quietly. All this may seem foolish to some, but it is not, it will tend to put the candidate in a frame of mind the better to appreciate the ceremony which is to follow. If possible, an ante-room (as far from the main ante-room as possible) should be draped in black, or the walls and ceiling should be painted black, near one end should be placed a small black table and chair, and upon the table a small lighted taper. A mirror should be hung so that the candidate, while sitting on the chair and looking about the room, should catch a glimpse of his own face. Upon pedestals at the end of the room should be a coffin. A long white robe or shroud, and a mask to represent a skull or death's head, should be provided for this room.

A Bible, two swords, four pedestals $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, four saucers containing alcohol and alum, a transparency O. F. F., and a four foot bar of

INITIATION

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steel ($1\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch will do), fixed so that it can be suspended at one end, will be all that is needed for the main hall.

INITIATION.

This form of initiation is used when the ante-room is fitted up as a dark chamber,

(SEE NOTE.)

A few minutes before the sixth order of business is reached, some one previously selected, having first ascertained the age of the candidate as appears on the application, should go to the ante-room or dark chamber, light the taper, clothe himself in the shroud and mask, and lie down in the coffin. The Sentry should then conduct the candidate to the dark chamber and, telling him to be seated, should leave him to his own reflections. The man in the coffin should keep perfectly quiet.

Commander.—Guard, ascertain if any Knight of Honor of the World is in waiting to receive the degree.

Guard retires, and, on returning, reports from his station.

Guard.—Commander, I find without Brother _____, who desires to pass the mystic veil which separates him from true Knighthood.

Commander.—Secretary, has he been duly elected and paid the required fee?

Secretary.—He has,

Commander.—If there be no objection, we will proceed to confer the degree and satisfy the wishes of our brother. Senior Aid, taking with you the Junior Aid or any Brother who knows the applicant to be a true Knight of Honor of the World, you will retire to the secret chamber and satisfy yourself of his identity, and report. But first let signal be given.

The steel bar is then struck slowly with a muffled hammer, the same number of times the applicant is years old. As the last stroke dies away the man in the coffin, in a sepulchral voice, says:

I was (exact age of candidate) years of age.

This is the first intimation that any one is in the coffin, and having made this remark, perfect silence must ensue.

The Senior Aid, accompanied by such Brother as he may select (usually the last candidate initiated), salutes the Commander and retires to the secret chamber with drawn sword.

Senior Aid.—I am directed by the Commander of this Commandery to ascertain the name, the age, and the Lodge from whence came the applicant who seeks to pass our mystic portals.

(The candidate gives the information.)

Senior Aid.—Sir Knight, can you vouch for this man as being a true Knight of Honor of the World, and can you swear that he is not an imposter seeking under the guise of a Knight, to gain admission here?

Knight.—I can vouch for him.

Senior Aid.—It is well, but we need another witness.

The man in the coffin raises himself to a sitting position, and in a sepulchral voice says:

I am a witness.

Senior Aid.—I am satisfied. My brother, you will patiently await my return.

As the Senior Aid and his companion pass out the man lies down again in the coffin and all is still. Senior Aid advances to door of lodge room, and gives three taps with the point of his sword.

Guard.—Commander, there is an alarm at the door.

Commander.—Attend the alarm.

Guard (raising the wicket)—Who comes here?

Senior Aid.—The Senior Aid of this Commandery, with assistant.

The Guard opens the door and the Senior Aid and companion advance at right angles to the altar and salute.

Senior Aid.—Commander, your orders have been obeyed. The identity of the candidate has been duly established by the required witnesses.

Commander.—It is well. The way seems clear for his admission. Aids, retire and introduce the candidate.

The Senior Aid stands at the altar until the Junior Aid steps to his side. The Assistant salutes and takes his seat. The Aids then salute and retire.

If the foregoing form of initiation is used, skip all of the following to ¶ 1.

NOTE.

If the Commandery is so situated that an anteroom can not be made into a dark chamber, then a chamber can be provided in the center of the main hall by means of six or eight uprights ten feet high, and black curtains ten feet wide. These can be arranged to make a room ten feet wide by eighteen feet long. In this room arrange coffin, chair, table and taper as directed in general instructions. If this course is pursued the initiation ceremony will be as follows :

INITIATION.

This form of initiation to be used when dark chamber is set up in main hall.

Commander—Guard, ascertain if any Knight of Honor of the World is in waiting to receive the degree.

Guard. Commander, I find without Brother ——, who desires to pass the mystic veil which separates him from true Knighthood.

Commander.—If there be no objections we will proceed to confer the degree and satisfy the wishes of our brother. Senior Aid, conduct the candidate to secret chamber.

Senior Aid salutes and retires to the ante-room, hoodwinks candidate and returns. In the meantime a brother clothes himself in a shroud and mask and lies down in the coffin, a taper is lighted, and all lights in the hall are extinguished. Senior Aid seats candidate in chair in secret chamber, and having removed hoodwink, says: "Rest here a while, my brother," and leaves him.

Perfect silence must be maintained in Lodge room; not even a whisper can be permitted. In one or two minutes the signal bar is slowly struck in ante-room, the exact number of times the candidate is years old. As the last stroke dies away the man in the coffin in a sepulchral voice says: "I was (age of candidate) years old," and then all is quiet. In a moment the Senior Aid and Assistant enter the secret chamber with drawn swords, and the Senior Aid says:

Senior Aid.—I am directed by the commander of this Commandery to ascertain the name, the age and the Lodge from whence came the applicant who seeks to pass our mystic portals.

The candidate gives the information.

Senior Aid.—Sir Knight, you can vouch for this man as being a true Knight of Honor of the

World, and can you swear that he is not an imposter, seeking, under the guise of a Knight, to gain admission here.

Knight.—I can vouch for him.

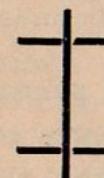
Senior Aid.—It is well, but we need another witness.

The man in the coffin raises himself to a sitting position and in a sepulchral voice says:

I am a witness.

Senior Aid.—I am satisfied. My friend, you will accompany me.

S. A. hoodwinks and conducts candidate to ante-room where they are joined by the J. A., after he has removed or taken down secret chamber. As soon as S. A. reach ante-room he removes hoodwink.



Everything being in readiness the candidate is then conducted to the door, the S. A. on the right, the J. A. on his left. (While waiting, Aids must refrain from conversation.) In the meantime the Lodge room is prepared by placing the pedestals at equal distance from the altar and about ten feet from each corner. Upon the altar are two swords, crossed, resting upon an open Bible. The Commandery is then formed in two lines down the hall, one on either side of and well back from the altar. Saucers containing alcohol and alum are placed on the pedestals and lighted. All other lights are extinguished, and the signal bar is slowly struck six times. As the last signal dies away, the S. A. raps three times on the floor with his sword blade.

Guard.—Commander, there is an alarm.

Commander.—Guard, ascertain the cause.

The Guard opens the door and says:

Guard.—Who comes here?

S. A.—Aids with said Knight of Honor of the World who desires to enlist under the banner of our Commandery.

Guard.—What assurance have we that he is worthy to become a member?

S. A.—The recommendation of Brother Knights, and his own declaration that he desires to aid us in extending the influence of the Order.

Guard.—Await the order of the Commander.

The Guard closes the door, salutes the Commander and says:

Guard.—Commander the Aids with candidate desire admission.

Guard opens the door, the Aids and candidate advance at right angles to a position in front of First Vice-Commander, and facing the Commander.

S. A.—Commander I have the pleasure of introducing Brother———, who desires to be admitted a member of this Commandery, engage in its work and share in its privileges.

Commander.—Brother, your desires are laudable. You have been recommended by worthy Knights, and have been elected to become one of our number; but before receiving you as such, you will be required to give some proofs of your consistency and zeal. Advance to the altar and give attention to the Past Commander.

The Past Commander takes position in front of the altar, and the Senior and Junior Aids on the right and left of the altar facing each other.

Past Commander.—My Brother, before proceeding further it will be necessary for you, to take

an obligation, which, I assure you, will not interfere with your civil or religious liberties. With this assurance are you willing to proceed.

Candidate answers.

Past Commander Then kneel at the altar, your hands upon the open Bible and crossed swords.

Commander Attention, Knights! 1, Draw, Swords. 2, Order, swords! 3, Parade, rest!

Past Commander.—Say I, pronounce your name, and say after me: I,———, in the presence of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe and those here assembled, do solemnly and unreservedly promise that I will never reveal any of the secrets communicated to me during my initiation into this Commandery; that I will observe the laws, rules and regulations governing Commanderies of the Uniform Rank as now existing, and as from time to time changed by lawful authority; that I will yield cheerful obedience to all the lawful commands of those placed in authority over me. I do further pledge myself to renewed exertions in advancing the interest and extending the influence of the Knights of Honor of the World, and to so live as to exemplify by my conduct the lessons taught by our noble Order.

Commander—Attention, Knights! Carry, swords! Return, Swords!

Past Commander.—Arise, my brother.

Commander.—Aids, our brother now being bound to us by his solemn promise to keep forever secret the mysteries of our Order, he is entitled to further advancement. But first conduct him to the ante-room and there let him wait the signal call. Knights, be seated.

INITIATION

The Aids, with candidate, having retired, the pedestals and altar are moved to one side, and the transparency with the letters O. F. F., is placed directly in front of the Commander's station. The lamp in the transparency is lighted, but the front of the transparency is covered. All other lights in the room are extinguished. The signal bar is struck slowly six times. At the sixth stroke the Guard opens the door, and the Aids conduct the candidate, by the light shining through the open door, to a position midway between the First Vice-Commander and the center of the hall. The door is then closed, and all is dark and silent for a minute; then the S. A. raps four times on the floor with the hilt of the sword, and says:

Senior Aid.—Let there be light.

The covering of the transparency is removed.

Commander—My Brother, in representing yourself to assume the duties of the Uniformed Rank of the Knights of Honor of the World, we do not require of you anyfeat of arms or sacrifice such as are exacted of the soldier. Our mission, while not surrounded and accompanied by the glitter and pomp of an army about to engage in battle, is nevertheless as noble and self-sacrificing. We are united for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of humanity, and to bring relief and succor to the distressed and helpless.

Being already a Knight of Honor of the World, you have become familiar with the great work which has been accomplished by the united efforts of our brotherhood. In assuming the additional duties of our rank, you are but placed in a position to more effectually carry on these good deeds.

My brother, you see before you our monogram, the initial letters of the three great principles we would indelibly press upon your memory: O_____, F_____, F_____.

Second Vice-Commander.—In the Commandery we teach and require Obedience and Fealty, as a

INITIATION.

means of a more perfect Fraternity. It is made my duty to impress upon you the importance of Obedience. Each of us, as members of this Commandery having a full voice in shaping the rules which govern our conduct, demand a loyal compliance after we have adopted them for our guidance. We demand that you obey our laws, respect our rules, and ever yield prompt Obedience.

First Vice-Commander.—It is my duty to instruct you in another great principle of our Order, Fealty. As fealty to the flag under which he serves is an indispensable quality in the soldier, so it is your duty to be loyal to the principles of our beloved Order. By deeds of charity and devotion to the cause of humanity, and by observing with fidelity the great lessons taught by our Order you will achieve that pure fraternity which will fit you for all companionship in the Rank. He who is true to every trust will find full compensation in the knowledge of having lived a life of usefulness, and in the blessed memory which will remain when he is gone.

Commander.—As Commander I am required to impress upon you the importance of Fraternity. Our Order, the Knights of Honor of the World, is a purely fraternal organization, depending for its success and permanency on those principles of which brotherly love is the cornerstone. The Uniformed Rank, of which the Commandery is the medium, was brought into existence as an ally to encourage sociability, the hand-maiden of Fraternity.

Obedience, as you have been told, is the first duty of a member of our Association. Our second duty is Fealty to our principles and to the Order. The Supreme Lodge has intrusted to us a sacred duty, and we should therefore so regulate our conduct as to

be able to discharge it with fidelity. Our flashing swords represent principles of true manhood and fraternity. As Knights of Honor of the World, it is made our duty to guard the interest of a brother and protect his loved ones after he himself is removed from earth. As members of the Commandery we should be still more zealous in discharging this duty. Retire awhile, my brother, but at the signal call return.

Candidate having been conducted to the ante-room, the gas is lighted (If the room is lighted with electricity it is unnecessary to send the candidate to the ante-room.)

Commander.—Attention, Knight! Form, ranks! Right and left, dress! Draw, swords!

Sir Knights form in front of the Commander's station in two parallel lines, facing in, and not over six feet apart.

If candidate has retired the signal is given (six raps on bar) and candidate is conducted to foot of column.

Commander.—I will now instruct you in the secret work in this degree. Desiring to visit a Commandery, give an alarm at the outer door. It will be opened by the Sentry, to whom you have given the usual countersign, which is—. This will admit you to the ante-room. To gain admittance to the Commandery room you must be in fatigue dress, which consists of the regulation cap and sword; also, attached to your left breast the insignia of the rank. Approach the inner door and give four raps, thus * * * *. The Guard will open the door or wicket, and to him give your name, if visiting your own Commandery; if visiting another, add the name, number and location of your Commandery. The Guard will announce your presence and again open the door, when you will give him the general countersign, which is the permanent word of the Commandery, and is—. This will admit you, and advancing

at right angles to the altar, past the station of the First Vice-Commander saluting the Commander in this manner—. He will recognize you thus —. You will then be seated. Desiring to make or second a motion, or otherwise address the Commander, rise, and salute with the same sign. Should you wish to retire before the Commandery is closed, after obtaining permission from the Commander, advance to the altar at right angles and salute the Commander as on entering. The monogram of the Rank is composed of the letters O. F. F., and their explanation is only intended to be known by the members of the Rank. We also have a grip, which the First Vice-Commander will now give you.

First Vice gives grip and instructs candidate regarding it.

Commander.—Attention, Sir Knights! Present, swords! My brother, you will now advance and inscribe your name upon our records.

S. A. conducts candidate between the lines to Commander's station, and thence to the Secretary's desk where he inscribes his name.

Commander.—Carry, sword!

The candidate is then conducted outside of the line to the foot of the column and stands facing the Commander. While this is being done the Junior Aid lays a cushion on the floor in front of the Commander's station.

Commander—Attention, Sir Knights! Form, arch!

Arch is formed by crossing swords at sufficient height to admit passage of candidate beneath.

Commander.—And now, my brother it simply remains for me to confer upon you the Order of Knighthood, and thereby receive you into full companionship as a Sir Knight of this Commandery. Advance underneath this arch and kneel before me.

As the candidate starts to advance the Knights should quickly

bring their swords from a cross above to a cross below and thereby completely barring the candidate's passage.

Senior Aid.—Commander, the passage is barred.

Commander.—Sir Knights, what means this?

Knights.—We were not so Knighted.

Second Vice Commander.—Commander, it was only after we had labored long in the interests of our beloved Order that we were Knighted. Is it right or just that this brother, admitted here only this very night, and in whose hand no sword has yet been placed, should be so honored?

First Vice Commander.—Has this brother ever struck a blow for humanity? Has he yielded prompt obedience to our laws, and by his efforts shown himself loyal to the Knights of Honor of the World with unswerving fealty to our flag? Until he has proven himself worthy shall he be allowed to advance?

Knights.—No.

Commander.—Sir Knights, you are right. Return your swords to their scabbards. My brother, strive, by patient, untiring effort to prove your loyalty to our Order. Wherever you may be, help to uplift the downtrodden and oppressed. Fight manfully in the cause of humanity. Be a good man and true—true to yourself and true to the Knights of Honor of the World. Prove yourself worthy, by act of charity and love, to belong to this great Fraternity. Then, my brother, you will be royally knighted a "Sir" Knight. Sir Knights, speak encouragement and cheer to our brother, and stretch forth your hand to aid and help him on his way.

Knights are given freedom of room to speak to candidate.

SECOND DEGREE—KNIGHTING.

This whole ceremony must be performed without books.

The ceremony upon conferring Knighthood can only be performed with the candidate's own sword, and must be made the most solemn and impressive. A degree team can officiate, clothed in proper paraphernalias for the occasion; otherwise the whole commandery or commanderies in full dress uniform will take part. The degree of Knighthood must be conferred by the officer highest in rank present; if possible, a general or staff officer especially appointed, and in no case shall the rank of the officer be lower than a Past Commander who has himself been duly Knighted.

The time for this ceremony must be specially appointed, and the conferring upon this degree must be regarded as the highest advancement for a Sir Knight, and can only be obtained after a reasonable time of probation, and after the candidate has proven himself worthy of this advancement by diligent attendance and Knightly behavior in his Commandery, and after a unanimous choice of the "Sir Knight." Before this degree is conferred upon any member of the Uniformed Rank he is addressed as "Brother." The voting shall not be by secret ballot *viva voce*, and any "Sir Knight" having any reasonable objection, other than personal dislike against the candidate, shall be in duty bound to make the same known to the "chapter" or meeting of the "Sir Knights." In such meeting no one but "Sir Knights" who have been properly Knighted shall be present.

The highest officer present shall preside and command: 1. Sir Knights, draw swords! 2. Rally 'round the altar! 3. Prepare to take the obligation.

The "Sir Knights" form an open ring around the altar and hold their drawn swords over the Bible, repeating after the Commander the following obligation: "I do solemnly promise upon the honor of a 'Sir Knight,' that I will never reveal the proceedings of this meeting to any one not entitled to know them, and that I will in this case vote as a true Knight of Honor of the World without malice, fear or favor, for the best interest of our beloved Order."

The officer in charge commands: "'Sir Knights,' Carry, swords! Open circle! Parade rest!" While in this position the vote is taken.

If the vote is favorable to candidate the room is prepared for the ceremony.

The altar removed, the Knights form a circle, open at the side where the conferring officer takes his station. Behind the latter is a standard bearer with a banner or flag if there be any. When the Aids retire the signal bar shall be tolled by striking it regularly and softly until the candidate has taken his place within the circle. Four (4) pedestals shall be placed within the circle equal distance from the cushion in the center thus:



x
cushion.



Upon each pedestal should be a dish containing alum and alcohol which should be lighted as soon as aids give returning signal at the door. All other lights in the room should be put out.

The officer conferring degree can be clothed with

royal mantle over his uniform and with crown on head. The Aids can be clothed as Knights in full armor, also the Standard Bearer and Standard Guards which is composed of two Knights with drawn swords or spears. If there is no standard, the guidon may be substituted. All other Knights must be in full parade uniform. A cushion should be in center of circle. The Aids are ordered to introduce the Brother. They retire and enter with candidate hoodwinked; one Aid bearing his chapeau and the other his sword and belt. The circle opens enough to admit Aids and candidate, after which it closes. The most profound silence must prevail. The Aids with candidate halt in center of circle. All the Knights stand with swords "at carry."

Chief Officer.—Aids, whom have you here?

Aids.—A brother found worthy of the highest honor.

Chief Officer to Candidate.—If you are willing to proceed, then answer, I am.

Candidate answers.

Chief Officer to Knights.—Sir Knights, what say you, shall we proceed?

Knights all Answer.—Let us proceed.

Chief Officer to Candidate.—With eyes blinded, thou art at the mercy of the world. Such is the condition of those who are without our sacred circle. We are bound together by the sacred ties of fraternity and pledged to mutual aid. Give him light.

While the hoodwink is being removed, the Knights, at a wink or command of the officer in charge of Commandery, or next highest in rank, assume the position of "with swords, point." The second officer in rank, or the Commander of the Commandery, must give all commands, as far as the manual of the swords during the whole ceremony is concerned. He shall give his commands with subdued voice, and must be obeyed with alacrity and precision. After the

removal of the hoodwink the Aids take position behind the conferring officer, to whom the sword is now handed, with hilt foremost. Aids retaining scabbard and belt.

Commanding Officer.—1. Carry, swords! 2. Order swords! 3. Parade, rest!

Chief Officer to Candidate.—My brother, pay attention, and bear in mind my words. This sword is composed of three parts: the hilt, the blade and the point. The hilt denotes "fraternal love." As you grasp this hilt, so also grasp the hand of your brother in fraternal love, being ever ready to aid him in his adversity and affliction, being doubly mindful to fulfill the solemn obligation you have taken upon yourself when you became a member of our noble Order.

"The blade."—As it is the true soldier's greatest pride to keep his blade free from rust and spotless, so also must it be your pride to keep your character blameless and pure in the eyes of your fellow-men. Let your walk through life be like that required of the soldier—upright and without reproach, so that your brothers will never have cause to regret having conferred this honor upon you.

"The point" denotes truth. May you never swerve from the path of Truth and Duty, and, may you never wrong a brother by word or deed nor suffer him to be wronged, and may you so live that you can proudly exclaim, "Spectemur agendo." Wilt thou promise this?

Commanding Officer.—Attention, Knights! Carry, Swords! With swords, charge!

After an affirmative answer from candidate, Chief Officer continues:

Then with thy right hand upon this blade, and thy left hand upon thy heart, repeat after me: Upon the sacred honor of a Knight I promise, and infamous will I be if I forget.

Sir Knights in Unison.—We have heard the vow. We will record it.

Commanding Officer.—Sir Knights, carry swords!

Chief Officer to Candidate.—Then kneel. And now, by the authority invested in me, with this stroke (touches the left shoulder with the blade) I pronounce thee a Sir Knight of the Guards of the Knights of Honor of the World, and dedicate thee anew to the service of our noble Order. And now, Sir Knight with this hand I raise thee into our brotherhood, and bid thee welcome to our Ranks.

Candidate rises.

Chief Officer.—Aids, belt him and cover him.

Which is duly done at the same time.

Commanding Officer.—Present, swords!

Chief Officer to Candidate.—Take thy sword. (Candidate, in taking sword, presents.) Returns it to the scabbard.

Commanding Officer.—Carry, swords! Return, swords!

Chief Officer.—Let honor be thy guiding star through life's journey. Thy heart and sword thou carriest on the same side; but remember always that thy heart is above thy sword; only draw it in defense of thy brothers and for the glory of our beloved Order. Sir Knights, welcome our brother.

All pass by him in front and shake hands with the newly initiated. After that Commanding Officer says: "Sir Knights, be seated," when speeches are in order, etc.

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INSTALLATION.

If the Commandery belongs to a Battalion, the installation should be by the Colonel Commander or some one as deputy appointed by him. If the Commandery does not belong to a Battalion, the installation may be by a Past Commander.

The Colonel Commander, Past Colonel Commander and Battalion Aids, or persons authorized to fill their respective positions, should be in the ante-room, and when the order of New Business is called, the Battalion Senior and Junior Aids advance to the door, give an alarm, and being admitted, advance to the altar and salute, when the Senior Aid says:

Senior Aid.—Commander, the Battalion officers are in waiting to install the officers of this Commandery.

Commander.—Battalion Aids, please inform the Battalion officers that we are ready to receive them. Senior Past Commander, retire and introduce them.

Battalion Aids and Senior Past Commander retire. The Senior Aid, Past Commander, Colonel Commander, Past Colonel Commander and Junior Aid advance to the door and give * * * *, Guard opens wicket. Senior Past Commander reports Battalion officers. Guard opens the door and announces Battalion officers. Commander gives command, Attention, Knights! Draw, swords! Carry, swords! The Battalion officers, in the order named above, will file in passing in front of the station of the First Vice Commander, when they will face the Commander and advance in line to the altar, and as they halt, the Commander will command: Present, swords!

Senior Past Commander.—Commander, I have the honor to introduce the Battalion officers.

Commander.—Battalion officers, in behalf of this Commandery, I tender you a hearty welcome. Carry, swords!

Colonel Commander. Commander, the term for which you and your subordinate officers were elected has expired. I am prepared by virtue of the authority vested in me, to install your newly elected officers for the ensuing year. Have they been duly elected?

Commander.—The officers have been duly elected and are ready to be installed. Please take the chair. The Past Colonel Commander will take a seat at the right of the Past Commander.

Colonel Commander.—Return, swords! Knights, be seated!

If other battalion officers are present, proper positions will be assigned them in the same manner before the Colonel Commander seats the Commandery.

Colonel Commander Secretary, furnish the Senior Aid with the list of the officers elect. The officers of this Commandery will vacate the stations and resign to the Aids the insignia, books and other property of office, beginning with the Commander

The Aids collect the insignia, books and Rituals and place them on the stand near the Colonel Commander.

Colonel Commander.—The Battalion officers will now take their positions in the Commandery. Senior Aid, call the roll of officers elect, commencing with the Commander, who, as they are called, will take their places in line along the left of the hall, in front of the Treasurer's desk.

The Senior Aid rises and calls the names of the officers elect and sees that each takes his position, the Commander on the right, each reports if all are present.

Colonel Commander.—Officers elect, do you accept the offices to which you have been elected?

Officers answer.

Colonel Commander.—Attention, Knights! Do you promise a cheerful obedience to all their official demands, and will you do all in your power to assist them in the performance of their various duties?

Members answer, and Colonel Commander commands, Knights! be seated! The officers elect remain standing.

Colonel Commander.—I congratulate you upon the advancement you have made in our beloved Order, and the preferment shown you by the members of your Commandery. Let it ever be your purpose to merit the honor thus conferred, and deserve the respect which your positions demand. Be diligent in the performance of your duties, remembering that modesty and impartiality will insure respect and confidence, whereas ostentation and arrogance beget contempt.

Colonel Commander.—Senior Aid, present the officers elect to the past Colonel Commander for obligation. Attention, Knights!

The Senior Aid will face the officers to the right and march them by file, past the station of the Commander, the Junior Aid marching in the rear.

Senior Aid.—Past Colonel Commander, by order of the Colonel Commander, I present you these officers elect for obligation.

Past Colonel Commander.—Officers elect, place your right hand upon your left breast and repeat after me: I, ——, do solemnly promise upon the honor of a Knight, that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected, that I will punctually attend all the meetings of the Commandery, and preserve all books and property committed to my care; that I will support and maintain the regulations of the Uniformed Rank

and enforce the By-Laws of the Commandery and that I will do all in my power to uphold the principles and extend the influence of the Knights of Honor of the World.

Colonel Commander.—Knights, be seated!

Past Colonel Commander.—Senior Aid, conduct the officers to the Colonel Commander.

The Senior Aid will face the officers to the left and march them past the station of the First and Second Vice Commanders and halt in front of and facing the Colonel Commander.

Senir Aid.—Colonel Commander, the officers have been obligated and await your pleasure.

Colonel Commander.—Senior Aid, present the Commander.

Senior Aid.—I have the honor to present for installation —— ——, Commander elect of this commandery for the ensuing year.

Colonel Commander.—You have been elected to the important and exalted station of Commander of this Commandery. It is an evidence of the esteem and confidence to believe that you will so conduct the imoporant interests about to be committed to your care, as to reflect honor upon yourself and credit to this Commandery. It is your duty to do all in your power to promote the general good of Knights of Honor of the World, and see that the regulations of the Rank and the laws of the Order are duly observed. To your care are committed the rituals. You are responsible for their safe keeping. I now invest you with this insignia of office. Be seated on my left.

Senior Aid, present the Past Commander.

You have received the highest honor in the gift of your brethren. As Past Commander it is your duty to officiate at the altar and perform the sacred rights of this Commandery. Let your example be worthy of imitation by your brethren. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Senior Aid, present the First Vice Commander.

You have been elected First Vice Commander. Your station is opposite that of the Commander. You will see that his orders are promptly executed, and assist him in the discharge of his various duties. In his absence you will preside over the Commandery. Support with dignity, the office to which you have been chosen. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Senior Aid, present the Second Vice Commander.

You have been elected Second Vice Commander. It is your duty to assist in the initiation of candidates and to aid the Commander in his various duties, in the absence of the Commander and First Vice Commander you assume command. It is therefore your duty to be diligent and attentive that you may honor the position to which you have been elected. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Senior Aid, present the Secretary.

You have been elected Secretary of this Commandery. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. Your station is on the right of the Commander. The qualifications of a secretary are promptness, punctuality, correctness, and fidelity. Be, therefore, prompt in discharging your duties,

punctual in attendance, correct in your records and faithful in collecting and paying the revenues to the Treasurer. Thus you will reflect honor upon yourself and bring prosperity to your Commandery. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Senior Aid, present the Treasurer.

You have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. Your station is on the left of the Commander. Be accurate in keeping a minute account of all receipts and disbursements; be faithful in preserving all property and funds of the Commandery, placed in your hands, and be ready to render a just account whenever called upon to do so. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Senior Aid, present the Senior and Junior Aids.

You have been elected the Aids of this Commandery. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. Your stations are on the right and left, in front of the Commander. Your duties are to execute the order of the Commander, have charge of the lines, conduct candidates through the ceremonies of initiation and see that the Commandery room is in suitable array for the meeting of the Commandery. You are the Drill Masters of the Commandery, and as such you should be assiduous in teaching your divisions their duties and rendering them proficient in the drill. The Senior and Junior Aids will conduct you to your stations.

Senior Aid, present the Guard.

You have been elected Guard. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. Your station is at the inner portal. It is your duty to post the sentry, report all who seek admission, and admit only such

as are duly qualified. Your post is one of importance. Be vigilant and faithful. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your post.

Senior Aid, present the Sentry.

You have been chosen Sentry. I now invest you with the insignia of your office. Your post is at the outer portal. It is your duty to see that the approaches are duly guarded and that no improper persons loiter about the entrance. Be watchful, admitting only such as have the proper countersign. The Junior Aid will conduct you to your station.

Attention Knights! Officers, it is your duty to furnish to your brethren such examples of moral rectitude and faithful service as are worthy of imitation. Let, therefore, precept and example go hand in hand.

Knights, remember that the prosperity of your Commandery will depend as much upon your punctuality, obedience and fealty, as upon the wisdom, efficiency and fidelity of your officers.

By power vested in me, I now declare the officers of _____ Commandery No._____, Uniformed Rank Knights of Honor of the World, duly installed and authorized to enter upon their duties for the ensuing year or until their successors are elected and installed.

The Commander takes charge and commands!

Commander.—Knights, be seated!

